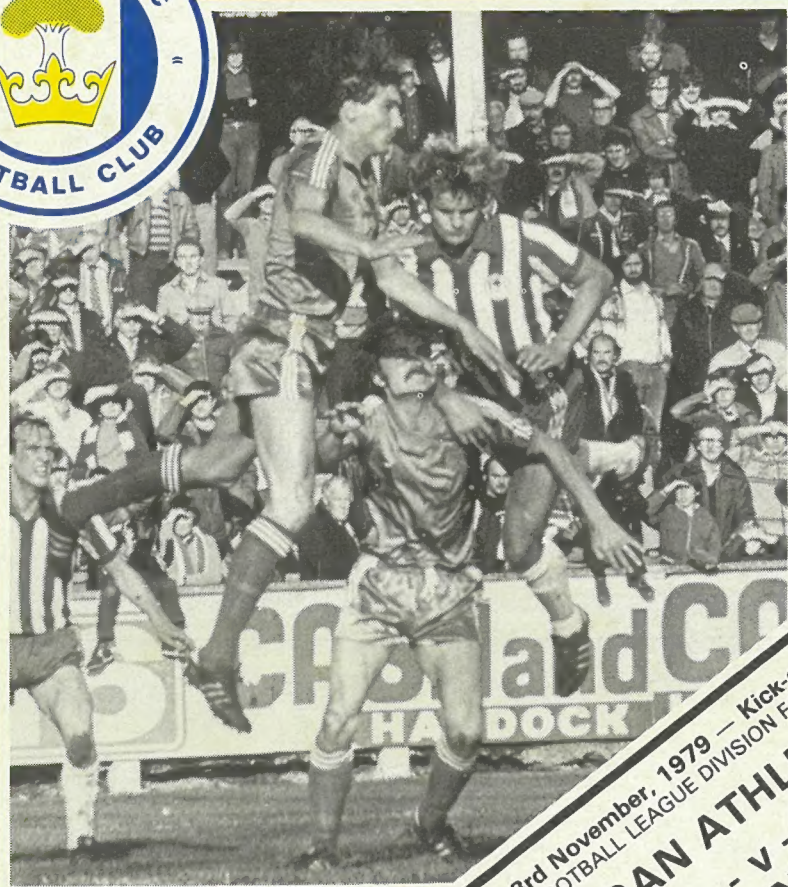


WIGAN ATHLETIC



Saturday, 3rd November, 1979 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
WIGAN ATHLETIC
- v -
DARLINGTON

Official Programme

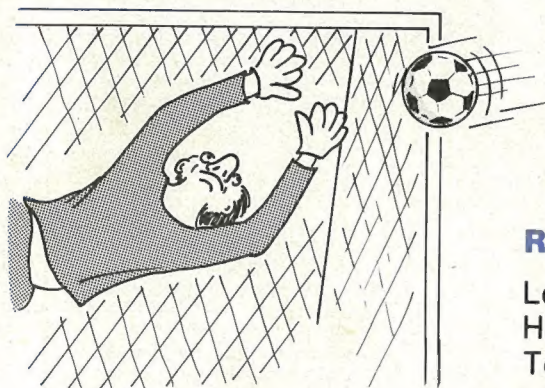
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TEAM MANAGER:
Mr. I.M. McNeill.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER:
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HON. MEDICAL OFFICERS:
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Our front page pic. this week shows Neil
Davids and two Torquay defenders compet-
ing for possession. "Thanks for the ride!"
(Photo by courtesy of the Wigan Observer)

Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



Good Afternoon All
A WARM WELCOME
to Billy Elliott and his
Darlington side. Billy
took over at the start
of the season and so
far has had injury
problems which have
not helped in his bid
to get a settled side.
However, they have
had one or two good
results and we will

certainly have to work hard to get success to-
day.

Youth Squad

It was sad on Monday night to see our
youngsters go out of the National Competition,
but they did not go out without proving to me and
1100 supporters that there is quite a lot of talent
in our 16/17 year old age group. Indeed it
usually takes about 3 or 4 years to organise a
youth set-up but I have been really happy with
the way things are going under the watchful eye
of Dave Crompton. Dave, incidentally, also runs
the town's successful under-14 schoolboy
squad.

Search for players

Ken Banks and I are certainly covering the miles
in an effort to see as many available players as
we can. My immediate concern is to compensate
for the loss of Ian Purdie by signing a natural
winger. This will be done as soon as we can get
the right man at the right price.
Enjoy today's game.

Ian McNeill

WELCOME TO



DARLINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB 1979/80 — (Left to Right) **Back Row:** E. Probert, R. Ferguson, P. Owers, J. Seal, M. Burleigh, J. Peachey, D. Ball. **Centre Row:** R. Farrelly (Physio), J. Cochrane, D. Crosson, P. Taylor, N. Hague, D. Craig, C. Nattress, A. Walsh, K. Cane, K. Coleman, J. Shoulder (Coach). **Front Row:** C. Parias, J. Hunter, D. Mason, B. Hadley (Vice Chairman), B. Elliott (Manager), J.L. Moore, (Chairman), E. McMahon, A. Brown, B. Richardson, Dr. M. Robson, A. Rowell (Secretary).



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DARLINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

DARLINGTON Football Club, a founder-member of the Third Division (North) in 1921, have experienced both the highs and lows of football fortune in their fifty-plus years in the Football League.

Their championship of the Third Division (North) in 1924 — 1925 led to their elevation to the Second Division in the following year, but for the most part the Darlington club has played out its games at Third and Fourth Division levels. A runners-up honour in the Fourth Division in Season 1965 — 1966 is the other high spot of their league career, although entry into the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup in 1957 — 1958, and a Fifth Round appearance in the Football League Cup in 1967 — 1968 have cheered the hearts of "The Quakers" faithful fans. The record attendance at the compact Feethams Ground is 21,023 for the game against Bolton Wanderers in the Third Round of the Football League Cup on the 14th November, 1960.

After a shaky start to the season, Darlington, like ourselves, are too near the foot of the Division Four League Table for comfort, but, again like Wigan, it will only take two or

three good results in succession to lift the County Durham side into a comfortable mid-table position. Certainly, under manager Billy Elliott, there has been evidence of a desire to get to grips with the task of lifting Darlington into a position more in keeping with the esteem in which the club was held in former times.

The three games played against "The Quakers" since Wigan Athletic joined the Football League have all been drawn, with each side scoring five goals. On all three occasions both clubs have refused to accept the possibility of defeat, and we can expect that today's game will be keenly-contested as the players involved seek to pull their respective clubs clear of the bottom four league positions.

Welcome then to the Directors, staff, players and supporters of the Darlington Football Club. The North-East is legendary not only for its football heroes, but also for its hospitality to visitors. We trust you will enjoy your visit to Lancashire, and, after a good afternoon's entertainment, we wish you a safe and pleasant journey back home.

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Commercial Chatter

MONDAY, October 29th, 1979 was a red-letter day, not only for me personally, but also for Derek Welsby and the staff who assist us with our work on behalf of the Wigan Athletic Football Club.

With Derek now safely settled in his new office accommodation at the entrance to the Main Stand, I was at last able to acquire an office and desk of my own in the block situated between the Main Stand and the Supporters' Club. The separation of the football administration from the commercial operation at Springfield Park will, I am sure, benefit all concerned. After grabbing a telephone here and a chair there and having literally carried my "office" around with me for four months, it was a real pleasure to put my paperwork to rest and get to grips with the problems of giving my day-to-day routine a base from which to operate. In recent months the secretarial staff at the ground have done a magnificent job under very trying conditions, and

one hopes that the recent office reorganisation will make their own individual functions that little bit easier to perform.

As a result of this week's comings and goings, the Company Secretary now operates from the Main Stand area, with the Commercial Department now taking over the offices within the ground. Of the three offices in the Commercial "wing" one office is shared by the staff operating the activities of the allied fund-raising organisations, one office is now allocated to the Commercial Manager, while the central office not only houses the Soccer Shop and the switchboard, but also acts as a general inquiry and general administration point. Mrs. Merle Ward will in future act as Admin. Secretary and the vital link between the Company Secretary, Football Manager and Commercial Manager from the central office in the commercial wing. Mrs. Helen Turner, in her general clerical capacity, will

assist with fund-raising and commercial activities.

We are pleased to report that our lottery kiosk on the Wigan Market Square is still doing well, and plans are already well advanced to open a second kiosk in Ashton in Makerfield, as soon as collection can be arranged with our kiosk suppliers in Birmingham. The trip up and down the M6 is something of a labour of love, but by collecting rather than awaiting delivery, the kiosk becomes available for our use that little bit sooner.

Today's match-ball has been donated by S.K.D. Typewriters of Railway Road, Leigh (telephone number Leigh 603326). We are grateful to their director, Mr. Roy Swift for personally involving himself with the donation and would thank Mr. Dave Parfitt for his assistance in this matter.

Enjoy today's game.

Jack Sudworth.
Commercial Manager.

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Lancashire League Scene

by Fred Eyre

TONY QUINN missed his first ever game for me the other week and I was delighted. Delighted because he had at last been called into the first team squad, and if ever a lad has earned this recognition is is Tony.

Quinn came to Wigan at the beginning of last season, along with dozens of other young players, because, after being admitted to the Football League, the club was in the process of forming a reserve team. In the training sessions he did not look particularly sharp, and indeed I remember him being physically sick during our second session, but when we finished each stint with a game, he always chipped in with a couple of goals. On the strength of this I selected him for our first game against Blackpool and told him that in the penalty area he reminded me of Jimmy Greaves but outside the box he was more like Albert Tatlock and warned him

that if he stopped scoring he would be too much of a luxury for us to carry. He responded by scoring both our goals and has never stopped scoring since. His record is phenomenal, he has never missed one minute of any game since he came here.

Last season he played 38 games and notched 35 goals and finished as the Lancashire League's top scorer. This season in 13 games he has scored 6 goals and 8 friendly games have brought him 11 goals, plus 3 goals in 175 minutes of the friendly games for the first team, giving him a grand total of 55 goals in 60 games. All good stuff, but even more pleasing is the fact that now he does not only operate in the opposing penalty area, but works tremendously hard in other areas of the field. He is now a far better all-round player, as well as being an accomplished striker.

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I.A.T.A.



Player Profile



JEFF WRIGHT (Midfield)

JEFFREY KENNETH WRIGHT was born in the small market town of Alston in Cumbria. He received his Secondary Education at Samuel King's Grammar School, where he represented his school at football, cricket, badminton, athletics and cross-country running. As a schoolboy he gained representative honours with the East Cumbria Under-15 and Under-17 teams.

After leaving school, Jeff started work as a trainee office manager at the local foundry works, but continued to play football in the local amateur leagues. The quiet Cumbrian eventually signed for Tow Law in the Northern League, but after only fifteen games he signed for Kendal side Netherfield. In the next two and a half seasons Jeff played over 120 games before being brought to Wigan Athletic by Les Rigby in February 1974.

During his time at Wigan Athletic Jeff has particularly pleasant memories of being a member of Brian Tiler's Northern Premier League Championship side and recalls with relish the F.A. Cup runs which brought victory over Shrewsbury Town, York City and Sheffield Wednesday. Last year, as an ever-present member of the Wigan Club's first team in the Football League there were other memorable occasions.

In the eyes of Wigan supporters, Jeff Wright always plays the role of "hero" or "villain", but even the most critical Wigan Athletic fans acknowledge that he possesses a range of skills which are not commonplace at Fourth Division level. Much of his quietly efficient work is often overlooked in the helter-skelter play which predominates in bread and butter league games. Whenever tested against top-class opposition Jeff Wright's undoubted talent always shines through brightly.

RESERVE RESULTS FOR YOUR RECORDS

F.A. YOUTH CUP FIRST ROUND

Monday, 29th October, 1979

Wigan Youth 2 - Sheffield Wed. 4

Wigan Scorers - Mike Quinn (2)

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

Saturday, 27th October, 1979

'A' Team 1 - Oldham 'A' 2

Wigan Scorer - G. McAllister

Please note the Wigan Athletic Reserve Team game against Tranmere Rovers will be played at Springfield Park on Wednesday, 7th November, 1979, kick-off 7.30 p.m.



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F.A. YOUTH CUP A

Photographs by courtesy of the Wigan Observer.



ABOVE:
Mighty Mike Quinn powers home his second goal.

RIGHT:
Mike Quinn and George McAllister put the Sheffield Wednesday defence under pressure.

BELOW RIGHT:
The Sheffield Wednesday defence scrambles to clear the ball from another Wigan attack.

Springfield Spotlight

ACTION REPLAY



Wednesday
the ball away
attack.



NEW AND REBUILT

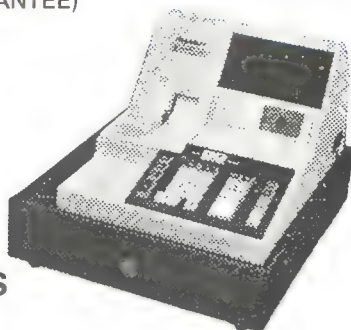
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Down Memory Lane

by Harold Ashurst

THE FORMATION, at the start of this season, of the new Alliance Premier League, was the culmination of many years behind the scenes work by dozens of non-league clubs, including, in their time, Wigan Athletic.

In fact, it is six years ago this weekend that the Country's non-league clubs received probably their severest of many blows over the years, when it was announced that plans for a "super-non-league" had been postponed. All clubs were disappointed, but for Wigan Athletic, who had first mooted the idea several years previously, it was indeed a bitter blow.

The idea had been that a joint committee of Northern and Southern non-league sides would join together to get the new league off the ground and would select the clubs to become founder-members. This proved to be more difficult to achieve than had been anticipated, as both Southern and

Northern members seemed to be more than a little wary of each other's intentions.

The Southern League wanted automatic promotion for the winners of the proposed new league into the Fourth Division of the Football League, as was the aim of everyone, but many people thought it was too early to make such a demand. The Northern representatives had trouble convincing the minor leagues of their roles as feeder leagues for the "select" competition. After conflict on this and other issues, plans for the League were shelved. Wigan, as ever, put on a brave face and stated that it was not the end of the world. As things eventually turned out, everything worked out well for all concerned — especially Wigan, although it took another five years before their hopes of League football were realised.

LATICS AWAY

At Rochdale, Tuesday, 6th November, 1979 — Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Use Motorway M62 until Junction 20 then follow sign for Rochdale. In 1.5m at roundabout take second exit into Roch Valley Way and in 1.5m turn right into Willbutts Lane for Rochdale F.C.

At Tranmere Rovers, Friday, 9th November, 1979 — Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Use Birkenhead Tunnel. follow signs for Heswall, dropping down into Borough Road and continue through lights into Prenton Road for Tranmere Rovers F.C.

Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals.
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.
† Player substituted.

² Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.
* In result column indicates opponents own goal.

| DATE | FIXTURE | F | A | ATT. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-------|--------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----|
| Aug 11 | Stockport FLC1 | 1-2 | 6,004 | R Ward | Smart | Hinnigan | Gore | N Ward | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Houghton† | Brownbill | Purdie | Urquhart | |
| Aug 15 | STOCKPORT FLC1 | 0-0 | 7,591 | Shyne | Smart | Hinnigan | Gore | N Ward | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Houghton | Brownbill | Purdie | Moore | |
| Aug 18 | Darlington | 2-2 | 2,063 | Shyne | Smart | Hinnigan† | Gore | N Ward | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Houghton | Moore | Purdie† | Dauids | |
| Aug 22 | HUDDERSFIELD | 1-2 | 6,927 | Shyne | Smart | Hinnigan | Gore | N Ward | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Houghton | Moore† | Purdie | Brownbill | |
| Aug 25 | Stockport County | 2-1 | 3,837 | Shyne | Smart | Hinnigan | Gore† | Dauids | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Houghton† | Moore | Purdie | N Ward | |
| Sep 1 | PORTSMOUTH | 1-2 | 8,198 | Shyne | Smart | Hinnigan | Gore | N Ward | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Houghton | Moore† | Purdie | Urquhart | |
| Sep 8 | Bournemouth | 2-1 | 4,390 | Shyne | Smart | Hinnigan | Gore | Hart | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Houghton | Moore | Purdie | Brownbill† | |
| Sep 15 | YORK CITY | 2-5 | 5,990 | Shyne | Smart | Hinnigan | Gore | Dauids | Fretwell | Corrigan† | Wright | Brownbill | Moore | Purdie | Urquhart† | |
| Sep 19 | HARTLEPOOL | 2-1 | 4,877 | Shyne | Smart | Hinnigan | Gore | Dauids | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Brownbill | Moore | Houghton† | Purdie | |
| Sep 22 | Hereford United | 1-2 | 3,891 | Shyne | Gore | Hinnigan | Purdie | Dauids | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright† | Brownbill | Moore | Houghton | Urquhart | |
| Sep 29 | BRADFORD CITY | 4-1 | 8,009 | Shyne | Gore† | Hinnigan† | Urquhart | Dauids | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Brownbill | Moore† | Houghton† | Crompton | |
| Oct 6 | TORQUAY UNITED | 0-3 | 6,541 | Shyne | Gore | Hinnigan | Urquhart | Dauids | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Brownbill | Moore | Houghton | Crompton | |
| Oct 9 | Huddersfield Town | 0-4 | 7,871 | Brown | Gore | Hinnigan | Urquhart | Dauids | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Brownbill | Moore | Houghton | Methven | |
| Oct 13 | Doncaster Rovers | 1-3 | 4,169 | Brown | Machvor† | Hinnigan | Gore | Methven | Fretwell | Corrigan | Wright | Houghton | Moore | Purdie | Urquhart | |
| Oct 20 | LINCOLN CITY | 2-1 | 5,454 | Brown | Fretwell | Hinnigan | Gore | Methven | Dauids | Corrigan | Wright | Houghton† | Moore | Urquhart | T Quinn | |
| Oct 24 | ROCHDALE | 1-1 | 5,036 | Brown | Fretwell | Hinnigan | Gore | Methven | Dauids | Corrigan | Wright | Houghton | A Quinn† | Urquhart | Buckley | |
| Oct 27 | Newport County | 2-3 | 4,910 | Brown | Fretwell | Hinnigan | Gore | Methven† | Dauids | Corrigan | Wright | Buckley | A Quinn† | Urquhart | Smart | |

| FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 4 — TABLE AS AT 1st NOVEMBER, 1979 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|
| Home Goals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Away Goals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | P | Ts | | | |
| Huddersfield Town | 16 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 12 | 24 | | | | |
| Portsmouth | 16 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 11 | 24 | | | | |
| Bradford City | 16 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 22 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 24 | | | | |
| Walsall | 16 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 11 | 23 | | | | |
| Peterborough | 16 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 12 | 21 | | | | |
| Newport County | 16 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 20 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 15 | 20 | | | | |
| Torquay | 16 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 20 | | | | |
| Aldershot | 16 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 20 | | | | |
| Lincoln City | 16 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 20 | | | | |
| Doncaster Rovers | 16 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 18 | | | | |
| Peterborough United | 16 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 18 | | | | |
| Halifax Town | 16 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 15 | | | | |
| Tranmere Rovers | 16 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 14 | | | | |
| Bournemouth | 15 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 14 | | | | |
| Hartlepool United | 16 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 14 | | | | |
| Hereford United | 16 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 23 | 13 | | | | |
| York City | 16 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 21 | 12 | | | | |
| Northampton Town | 15 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 16 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 16 | 12 | | | | |
| Wigan Athletic | 16 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 21 | 11 | | | | |
| Darlington | 16 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 23 | 11 | | | | |
| Scunthorpe United | 16 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 11 | | | | |
| Stockport County | 16 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 18 | 9 | | | | |
| Port Vale | 16 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 19 | 9 | | | | |
| Rochdale | 16 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 24 | 5 | | | | |
| Crewe Alexandra | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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Fourth Division Focus

by Chris Gill



VALLEY PARADE, home of Bradford City, will be filled to capacity on November 10th, when near neighbours Huddersfield Town are the visitors. So confident are Bradford of packing the fans in that they have decided to make this "Yorkshire Derby" an all ticket affair with more than 23,000 fans expected.

Northampton Town, currently struggling to stay out of the bottom four, have appointed former Grimsby Town and Luton Town Manager, Bill Harvey, as trainer-coach.

Huddersfield Town have unloaded full back Jim Brannagan to Blackburn Rovers, the second experienced full back sold by Manager, Mick Buxton, in a month. Previously, Phil Sandercock was allowed to go to Northampton Town. York City's new striker Terry Eccles, is already his side's leading scorer with four goals, after only eight appearances for the club.

Barry Gallagher was doubly delighted with the goal he scored for Bradford City against Halifax Town in a recent "derby". Not only was it his first for the club, but it also proved to be the winner.

Crewe boss Tony Waddington has been

busy again in the transfer market. His latest acquisition is 32 year old central defender Colin Prophett signed for a small fee from Chesterfield.

Rochdale winger Bobby Hoy has been taken off the transfer list by manager Doug Collins, thus putting paid to Wigan's hopes of signing the player.

A.F.C. Bournemouth's Ted MacDougall scored his first goal of the season against Bradford City last Saturday, the 249th of a renowned career.

Halifax Town manager George Kirby will decide this week whether or not to retain the services of Everton winger John Thomas, whose month's loan finishes at the end of the week. A crop of injuries and a "mini-slump" might influence his decision. Incidentally, it was interesting to note that Kirby was rather pointed in his backing-up of Brian Clough's recent comments about the Press. After his side had suffered a defeat at Torquay United he said: "They (the Press) are not qualified to analyse a match. I think the role of the media — T.V., Radio and Press is to report and comment, not to analyse — that is not their job"

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ALTHOUGH most of us are sad to see the onset of winter with its rain, winds, fog and snow, the residents of Springfield have this year greeted the recent unsettled weather with unrestrained enthusiasm. Wild life which had threatened to leave the area because it was no longer allowed the privilege of starting the day with the Dawn Chorus has started to return for winter, quite contrary to Nature's normal cycle of events. Evidently Jack Day, his cement mixer and the slowly-emerging terracing at the Springfield end of the ground were to blame. Threatened with redundancy because of Jack's primitive early morning reveille, they have decided to stick it a little longer now that the deteriorating weather has hit construction work. It is hoped that some compromise can be worked out since both Jack Day and the wild life are needed in the Springfield area, but little Tommy Hidden has so far refused to act as arbitrator since he is also put out because they won't let him pull the flag up and down and

blow his bugle!!

Still with wild life, lottery courier, Mrs. Christine Matthews, had quite an experience this week, when out collecting in the Golborne Grasslands. While making her call, she was suddenly attacked by a gaggle of geese. What made it worse was the fact that one of the geese was evidently being sponsored because it had a Smith's Crisp packet tied around its neck. Hastily fleeing for the safety of the near-by pub on which she was calling, Chris, with true courier courage, completed her call before making a frenzied dash for the safety of her car. As Chris herself said she can handle wolves in sheep's clothing but crisp-eating, sponsored geese require some outwitting. Crafty kill-joy Commercial Manager Jack Sudworth suggested that trousers rather than frilly feminine skirts and petticoats would sort out both species. Chris will now be allowed to wear her alluring garments in the office, but when on her rounds suitable protective clothing!!

WELCOME once again to Springfield Park from everyone at the Supporters' Club.

Last weekend we had yet another grand performance from David Franks and on Sunday "Carnaby Street" came up to our high expectations.

Next weekend, on Saturday, 10th November, we present on stage, "Deena" and the following night, Sunday, 11th November, we have a first class act from Wilderspool — Ray Malcolm.

Before the next issue of our club notes — I would remind you that, on Monday night November 12th, we have the Manchester Radio Quiz — Second Round.

**Wigan Athletic v Rochdale Hornets
Bury A.F.C. v Salford R.L.F.C.**

This programme is being recorded at our club, and please note it is a 7.30 p.m. start. Please be early — everyone will be welcome.

On the Thursday night of the same week the 15th November, it is the "Fab-Maxi" night and as our friend in the "Scene" magazine reports — "Don't miss this one!!" It will be a night of grand entertainment.

A point of interest is that we have just



enrolled our one thousandth member in the supporters' club!! As someone said, "suppose everyone decides to come along on the same night"?

Whilst speaking of memberships, I would ask Mr. P. Williams and Mr. C. Dalgleish who have applied to join the club, to please collect their cards on their next visit.

Before long I hope to have the pleasure of announcing our Christmas and New Year programme, but for now, assuring you, as always, of a warm welcome.

Sincerely,
Peter Woods.



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A last word from the chairman . . .

ON BEHALF of the Wigan Athletic Football Club, I am pleased to welcome the Chairman, Directors, management, staff and supporters of the Darlington Football Club to Springfield Park. Since we joined the Football League, games between the North-Eastern club and ourselves have been closely contested. We look forward to another keen encounter and a good exhibition of all that is best in football.

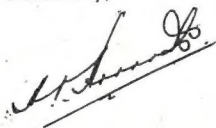


On Monday last, although our own youth side were eliminated from the Youth Cup Competition by a strong Sheffield Wednesday team, all present at the game really appreciated the enthusiastic way in which the young players on both sides set about their task. The crowd of 1,100 spectators had a good evening's entertainment and it was a great pity that our late rally failed to turn the tables on the Yorkshire side. We look forward to the day when the first of today's young hopefuls emerges as a fully-fledged first team player.

Our first team is at present finding the going particularly hard, and the situation is not being helped by a spate of injuries which is affecting the balance of the side. With the F.A. Cup on the horizon, Mr. McNeill is anxious to field a settled side, but this is difficult to achieve when five or six members of the first team pool are not available because of injuries. Given time, and careful team strengthening, I know we will eventually turn the corner, and the success for which we are all longing will come our way.

Meanwhile, be loyal to your club, maintain your support and enjoy your football.

Yours sincerely,



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Teams

| Wigan Athletic Royal Blue & White Stripes | | Darlington White with Black Trim |
|--|----|---|
| John Brown | 1 | Phil Owers |
| Dave Fretwell | 2 | Keith Coleman |
| Joe Hinnigan | 3 | Tommy Cochrane |
| Tommy Gore | 4 | Donald Ball |
| Colin Methven | 5 | Peter Bainbridge |
| Neil Davids | 6 | Kevan Smith |
| Frank Corrigan | 7 | David McLean |
| Jeff Wright | 8 | Harry Charlton |
| Peter Houghton | 9 | Ron Ferguson |
| Tony Quinn | 10 | John Peachey |
| George Urquhart | 11 | Alan Walsh |
| Alan Crompton | 12 | Ken Ellis |

Officials

Referee:

Mr. K.W. Baker
(Rugby)

Commenced refereeing in 1959. Was appointed to the Football League line in 1967 and has been on the full list for several years. Linesman in the Northern Ireland v Wales match (1975), also the Fulham v Birmingham City F.A. Cup Semi-Final Replay. In 1977 was linesman for the Charity Shield match between Manchester United and Liverpool.

Linesmen:

Red Flag
Mr. G. Jones
(Moreton)
Yellow Flag
Mr. D. Scott
(Burnley)

Here next...

Saturday, 17th November, 1979 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
WIGAN ATHLETIC v SCUNTHORPE UNITED
Football League Division Four